

## **Senate Joint Resolution No. 22**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 127**

Senate Joint Resolution No. 22—Relative to the Microbicide Development Act.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 31, 2006.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SJR 22, Speier. Microbicide Development Act.

This measure would memorialize the United States Congress and the President to enact the Microbicide Development Act to facilitate the development of microbicides to prevent the transmission of HIV and other diseases.

WHEREAS, Microbicides are a promising new prevention tool that could slow down the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, Women and girls are the new face of HIV/AIDS and account for almost one-half of the 37 million adults living with HIV and AIDS worldwide as of 2005, and approximately 7,000 women are infected with HIV each day; and

WHEREAS, In California, women comprise about 8 percent of all reported AIDS cases, yet are the fastest growing population with AIDS, and sex with an HIV-infected male is the most common route of transmission; and

WHEREAS, AIDS is now the number one cause of death among African-American women between the ages of 25 and 34 years; and

WHEREAS, The United States has the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases of any industrialized nation, with more than 19 million new STD infections every year; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that by age 25 one-half of all sexually active people in the United States can expect to be infected with a STD; and

WHEREAS, HIV and AIDS result in direct medical costs of more than \$15 billion per year and the pandemic undermines our economy and security; and

WHEREAS, Microbicides may be formulated as gels, creams, or rings to inactivate, block, or otherwise interfere with the transmission of the pathogens that cause AIDS and other STDs, allowing women to protect themselves from disease; and

WHEREAS, Unlike current HIV prevention methods, microbicides would allow women to both conceive children and protect themselves from HIV and STDs; and

WHEREAS, The microbicide field has achieved an extraordinary amount of scientific momentum, with several first-generation candidates now in large scale human trials around the world; and

WHEREAS, Microbicides are a classic public health good, for which the social benefits are high but the economic incentive to private investment is low and, like other public health goods such as vaccines, public funding must fill the gap; and

WHEREAS, The federal government needs to make a strong commitment to microbicide research and development, and while three agencies—the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)—have played important roles, further strong, well-coordinated, and visible public sector leadership is essential for the promise of microbicides to be fully realized; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, NIH spent less than 2 percent of its HIV/AIDS research budget on microbicides, and that funding level is inadequate; and

WHEREAS, HIV and STD prevention strategies must recognize women's unique needs and vulnerabilities if women are to have a genuine opportunity to protect themselves, and their best option is the rapid development of new HIV prevention technologies such as microbicides; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature memorializes the United States Congress and the President of the United States to enact the Microbicide Development Act (S. 550 and H.R. 3854), which would amend the Public Health Service Act to facilitate the development of microbicides for preventing the transmission of HIV and other diseases, and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.